

# Teaching guide 2017-18

For Citizenship lessons Key Stage 3  
and Key Stage 4

**make a  
difference!**



For use by teachers during the Big  
Vote election period running from  
September 2017 - 1 March 2018.

# contents

- 03** Teacher's notes

---

- 04** Introduction

---

- 04** Big Vote timeline

---

- 05** Background to the Big Vote and key aims

---

- 06** The youth council

---

- 07** How to use this guide

---

- 07** Contact details

---

- 09** Lessons

---

- 10** Lesson 1

---

- 11** Lesson 1 sheets

---

- 13** Lesson 2

---

- 14** Lesson 2 sheets

---

- 18** Extension tasks and sheets



**“I really like  
being part of a  
community where  
I can share my  
ideas with like-  
minded people”**

**Seb Baynes**

Derbyshire Youth Councillor 2016-2018

Cover image:  
Derbyshire Youth Councillors 2016-2018



# teacher's notes

the big vote

**Freya Askwith-Martin**  
Derbyshire Youth Councillor 2016-2018

# introduction

**This teaching guide has been sent to all Derbyshire secondary schools to promote Derbyshire's Big Vote 2017-18.**

The Big Vote 2017-18 allows young people aged 11 to 17 to either stand for election to Derbyshire Youth Council or vote for a candidate to represent them.

This guide has been designed to fit in with the teaching of Citizenship at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

The Department for Education programme of study for Citizenship sets out the importance of teaching young people how to play an effective role in public life and this teaching guide aims to encourage students to consider the role and purpose of democracy, specifically at a local government level in Derbyshire and more importantly involve and engage them with the political process of voting and its relevance to their everyday lives.

For ease, this teaching guide uses the terms 'class' and 'school'. However, it is also suitable for use in any youth work setting.



**George Sutton**  
Derbyshire Youth Councillor 2016-2018

# youth

**timeline 2017**

# Sep Nov

**Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September**



**Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January**

# background

## to the Big Vote 2017-18

The Big Vote has been running for 16 years and has seen 247 young people elected as Derbyshire youth councillors to make important decisions on issues affecting young people living in Derbyshire.

They have helped form new policies and plans and have campaigned on issues that really matter to young people living in Derbyshire.

The election of youth councillors will give young people the opportunity to make a difference and influence decisions that affect them.

**Libby Brown**  
Derbyshire Youth Councillor 2016-2018



## The key aims of the Big Vote 2017-18 are:

- To engage young people with the concept of democracy and how the democratic voting system works.
- To give young people the chance to be heard and represented in county-wide politics.
- To encourage debate and discussion on what is important to young people living in Derbyshire.
- To offer the chance for all 11 to 17-year-olds educated and residing in Derbyshire (up to 18th birthday) to stand for election to Derbyshire Youth Council.

# March

→ **Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March**

→ **Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March**

# Derbyshire Youth Council

- It has been running since 2002.
- It's organised and run by Derbyshire County Council.
- Youth councillors represent and are elected by young people from schools, colleges and their communities.
- Members hold one, two-year 'term in office'.
- It is made up of 57 elected members between the ages of 11 and 18 and up to 25 for elected members with special educational needs and disabilities from across Derbyshire.
- Youth councillors attend a minimum of six conferences and six district forums a year.
- Members have a say about issues affecting young people.
- Other roles for youth councillors include involvement with the UK Youth Parliament, making decisions on how money is spent, representation at District Youth Forums and attendance at Derbyshire Children's Partnership Board meetings.
- Derby city has its own youth council called 'Voices in Action', which is run separately by Derby City Council.  
Email [adele.styles@derby.gov.uk](mailto:adele.styles@derby.gov.uk) or telephone 01332 643471 or 07812 300931 for more information.
- Once elected, candidates can only stand for their elected two-year term.

**Samantha-Rose Beacham**  
Derbyshire Youth Councillor 2016-2018



# how to use this guide

---

This guide contains two one-hour lessons. Each lesson includes learning objectives, a starter task designed to act as a warm up to the discussion and activities that follow, and two main activities followed by a plenary to be led by the teacher.

Next to the task or activity headings are the suggested timings for how long they should take.

A series of extension tasks is included after lesson 2 and can be used if required. Resource sheets for the teaching guide are included in this booklet.

At the end of the teaching guide, students should be empowered with the knowledge of how they can take an active role in the Derbyshire Big Vote and what the democratic process is all about.

Finally... we hope you find this guide useful and should you have any queries about the Big Vote 2017-18 or the teaching guide or wish to provide feedback or suggestions for future Big Vote campaigns please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

**Voting will take place from Monday 5 March until Friday 9 March 2018. Schools will be sent enough ballot forms for every pupil and these can be used for voting either in connection with the following lessons or on their own.**

---

## contact details

---

For more information about Derbyshire Youth Council and the Big Vote campaign please contact Ruth Peat, participation worker: **Telephone 01629 535787. Email [ruth.peat@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.peat@derbyshire.gov.uk)**







# lessons

the big  
vote

**Jeannine Bastard**  
Derbyshire Youth Councillor 2016-2018

## Lesson 1

# Introducing Democracy

## Objectives

- To introduce and explore the concept of democracy
- To consider how democracy is relevant to the students' everyday lives here in Derbyshire

### Starter task (10 mins)

#### GROUP DISCUSSION:

Ask the students if they have ever voted for anything. If so, what? Write a selection of the answers on the board.

Answers may include competitions or reality TV shows such as X Factor.

Find out from the students why they voted.

Say that voting is a way of making a decision and involving as many people as possible. In Britain we live in a democracy and voting is a way of making decisions about how the country is run.

Ask if the students are aware of the school council. The school council is a group of students who are elected to represent the year group. They meet to discuss issues that are important to the year group and can also feed back to other year groups and even staff. This is a democratic way of making decisions which affect a lot of people in schools.

#### Hand out sheet 1

### Activity 1 (10 mins)

#### GROUP DISCUSSION:

#### Hand out sheet 2

Ask the students to write where they live and pick three good things about this area and three things they would like to improve.

Write a few of the suggestions on the board, highlighting a few examples.

### Activity 2 (20 mins)

#### GROUP WORK AND PAIRED WORK:

You need to be 18 years old to vote. Ask the students how this makes them feel.

- If you can vote at 18 years old, why not 16 years old?
- What is the difference?
- Do young people have enough of an understanding about where they live?
- Should only older people vote because they have more experience?

Ask the students to think about if they were able to vote now – what would their ideal representative be like?

Ask the students (can be done in pairs) to write about their ideal representative.

#### Write on the board:

- Would they live in your community?
- What age would they be?
- What would they be interested in achieving?

### Plenary (5 - 10 mins)

Draw out what the students have learnt from the lesson.

Students should specifically be able to talk about voting and why voting is used (what are the benefits of voting).

Tell the students that next lesson you will be looking at how they can get involved with politics in Derbyshire.

#### End of lesson

**Sep** | Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September

**Nov** | Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January

## Sheet 1: Lesson 1, starter task

# National Government

**It's impossible for everyone in the UK to make every decision together about what should happen in this country. Imagine the chaos!**

So we choose people to represent us and to make decisions for us. These people are called Members of Parliament (or MPs). They often meet in London in the Houses of Parliament to discuss important issues.

This group of people vote on all sorts of things, their decisions can affect our everyday lives – for example, from how much a CD costs, to where our nearest hospital is.

If we don't like the way they represent us then we can change them by not voting for them in the next election. So this means that we have control over who we choose to represent us.

Each MP has their own area of the country which they represent on a national (UK) level.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# March

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

## Sheet 2: Lesson 1, activity 2

# Local government in Derbyshire

In Derbyshire we have local councils made up of locally elected people.

They are responsible for a range of local services across Derbyshire which include:

- transport – how you get about
- housing – where you live
- education – where you go to school
- leisure – what leisure facilities and activities are available

These locally elected people are called councillors.

They are elected every four years.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Sep**

Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September

**Nov**

Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January

## Lesson 2

# Derbyshire Youth Council

## Objectives

Understanding what Derbyshire Youth Council is and how its work might affect other young people aged 11 to 18.

Make sure students are aware of how they can involve themselves with the Big Vote or find out more about Derbyshire Youth Council

### Recap lesson 1

### Starter task (10 minutes)

#### PAIRED ACTIVITY:

Split the class into pairs (could also be completed individually) and ask the students to read the information provided on sheets 3 & 4.

Once they have finished reading the two sheets ask them to write three things that the current Derbyshire Youth Council has done since they have been elected.

Activity (45 minutes)

Debate preparation (20 minutes)

Debate presentation for four teams (20 minutes)

Vote (2-3 minutes)

#### DEBATE:

Ask the students whether or not they think Derbyshire Youth Council makes a difference to the lives of young people in Derbyshire?

Tell the students they are going to hold a debate.

Explain that they will be split into four teams of about seven people. Ask teams 1 and 3 to argue that the youth council can make a difference to the lives of others and teams 2 and 4 should argue that the youth council cannot make a difference.

Hand out sheet 5 to teams 1 and 3

Hand out sheet 6 to teams 2 and 4

Each team should elect a team leader who will introduce their side of the argument. Everyone else in the team should

pair off and present one point for why they are right. The debate will last no longer than ten minutes – each team will get only five minutes to present their argument.

Give the groups twenty minutes to come up with at least three points to back their argument. They may be able to come up with arguments that are not listed on the two sheets provided.

At the end of the ten minutes, team one should go first and be followed by team 2 and so on.

#### CLASS VOTE (2-3 MINUTES):

Thank the students and tell them that you want to put it to the vote to see who had the best argument.

Teams are not allowed to vote for themselves.

Through a show of hands see if there is a preferred argument/team. Point out to the students that they have just selected their favourite opinion/standpoint through a vote.

## Plenary

Briefly draw out what the students have learnt from the lesson.

Explain that the students can have their say about life in Derbyshire by voting for who they want to represent them in the Big Vote 2018-20.

Explain to students they are able to contact youth councillors online if they want to put an issue on the youth council agenda.

They might even want to think about standing for Derbyshire Youth Council themselves.

# March

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

## Sheet 3: Lesson 2, starter task

# Derbyshire Youth Council

In Derbyshire you have a youth council, this was formed so young people living in Derbyshire could be involved and have their say on what's important to them.

Derbyshire Youth Council is organised and run by Derbyshire County Council.

Derbyshire Youth Council is important because local councillors and MPs listen to the youth council's views and take them into account when they're forming new policies and plans for young people's services.

The youth council is made up of 47 young people aged 11 to 18.

Derbyshire Youth Council is relevant to you – the decisions the youth council make can affect your life for the better.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Sep**

Nomination forms  
available in schools  
from 11 September

**Nov**

Nominations close 20 November.  
Campaigning by candidates  
begins 8 January

## Sheet 4: Lesson 2, starter task

# What does Derbyshire Youth Council do?

The answer is lots! These are just a few of the things that Derbyshire Youth Council has been up to in recent years.

- Youth Councillors have been involved in identifying gaps in and shaping mental health services for young people by working closely with the Future in Mind commissioning team.
- They've engaged over 40 secondary schools to take part in two national campaign ballots with the key issues debated in the House Of Commons.
- They've travelled around the country to participate in the UK Youth Parliament regional conferences and annual sitting.
- Youth Councillors have been involved in making decisions on allocating funding for new things to do and places to go for young people in Derbyshire.
- They've represented young people at the Derbyshire Children's Partnership Board and influenced services provided by organisations such as the police and health service.
- The Derbyshire Youth Council works closely with the local youth forums to make sure local issues are addressed at a county level with the support of the youth forum members.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# March

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

## Sheet 5: Lesson 2, debate

# Can Derbyshire Youth Council make a difference to the lives of young people in Derbyshire?

### Viewpoint 1

The youth council **can** make a difference to the lives of young people living in Derbyshire.

### Possible arguments

1. The youth council can help put forward the opinions of young people to councillors and Members of Parliament.
2. The youth council is more in touch with what other young people want.
3. The youth council can bring a fresh approach to politics and adults can learn from this!
4. Youth Councillors are passionate about making a difference and go to meetings in their spare time.
5. The youth council is given support by staff at Derbyshire County Council to help meet its goals.

### Can you think of any more reasons?

---

---

---

---

**Sep**

Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September

**Nov**

Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January



## Sheet 6: Lesson 2, debate

# Can Derbyshire Youth Council make a difference to the lives of young people in Derbyshire?

### Viewpoint 2

The youth council **can't** make a difference to the lives of young people living in Derbyshire.

### Possible arguments

1. The youth council is just a small number of people so they can't really make a difference to the life of every young person in Derbyshire.
2. The youth council cannot put forward and represent the views of all young people living in Derbyshire.
3. The youth council will only attract a certain type of person and they will not be able to represent me.
4. The youth council can only take on a few projects at once, so can't get enough things done.
5. Those in charge are not really interested in hearing what young people have to say.

### Can you think of any more reasons?

---

---

---

---

# March

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

## Extension Tasks

---

# Lesson 1

---

### Task 1

Ask 10 of your friends or family members to vote for their favourite TV show. This can be done anonymously by giving each person a piece of blank paper and asking them to write their answer down. Draw a table or graph that shows the ten answers. Is there a clear winner?

---

### Optional task

If there is a clear winner, write a paragraph on why you think people voted for this particular TV show.

---

### Task 2

Fill in the quiz on sheet 7

---

### Task 3

Imagine you have been asked to help encourage students in your school to vote. Design a poster to help do this using sheet 8.

**Try to get across why young people should vote.**

**Sep**

Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September

**Nov**

Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January

## Sheet 7: Extension task, lesson 1

# Quiz

Questions	Answers
1. What can Member of Parliament be shortened to?	
2. How often are local councillors elected?	
3. Write down one thing that local councillors are responsible for or make decisions on?	
4. Who runs Derbyshire Youth Council?	
5. Derbyshire Youth Council is made up of how many young people?	

**March**

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

## Sheet 8: Poster



**I can make a difference!**

[derbyshire.gov.uk/bigvote](http://derbyshire.gov.uk/bigvote)  
@DbshireYOUTHINC



**Sep** | Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September

**Nov** | Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January

## Extension Tasks

---

# Lesson 2

---

### Task 1

Imagine you know someone who wants to be a Derbyshire Youth Councillor, it might even be you! Write a short speech that would help persuade people to vote for you or your friend.

---

### Task 2

In the past, the youth council has been tasked with choosing where money goes for exciting new projects aimed at young people. If you were on the youth council, what would be important to you?

For example, do you think young people need somewhere to go in the evenings, are you worried about safety, would you like to see an art project in your area?

Imagine you are helping make the decision on where money should be put, think about Derbyshire and the area you live in, now write three suggestions on what you think would benefit young people in this area.

Using sheet 9 provide a reason for each suggestion.

---

### Task 3

Following the debate in class, look at the opposite argument. Try to come up with four reasons to support this. Can you think of any that weren't used in class?

Using sheet 10 write four reasons in the box provided.

# March

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

## Sheet 9: Extension task, lesson 2

# How would you spend government funds for young people in Derbyshire?

In the past, the youth council has been tasked with choosing where money goes for exciting new projects aimed at young people. If you were on the youth council, what would be important to you?

For example, do you think young people need somewhere to go in the evenings, are you worried about safety, would you like to see an art project in your area?

Where should the money go in Derbyshire?	Reason why you think money should be spent here?	What difference would spending money here mean to life in Derbyshire?
Eg. On a new swimming pool in our town.	Eg. Our swimming pool is old and could be improved.	Eg. It would encourage more people to take up swimming and keep fit. A new building could have extra room for classes or a community space.

**Sep** | Nomination forms available in schools from 11 September

**Nov** | Nominations close 20 November. Campaigning by candidates begins 8 January

## Sheet 10: Extension task, lesson 2

# Can Derbyshire Youth Council make a difference to the lives of young people in Derbyshire?

Derbyshire Youth Council <b>can</b> make a difference to the lives of young people in Derbyshire
Reason 1
Reason 2
Reason 3
Reason 4

Derbyshire Youth Council <b>cannot</b> make a difference to the lives of young people in Derbyshire
Reason 1
Reason 2
Reason 3
Reason 4

# March

Campaigning ends  
16 February. Voting begins  
5 March and ends 9 March

Successful candidates  
will be contacted  
Monday 19 March

